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MAMMAL RECORDS FROM DONLEY AND BRISCOE COUNTIES, TEXAS

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In October 2002, September 2003, and April 2004, 13 species of mammals, all representing new county records, were collected in Donley County. Collections were made on a private ranch located 3.0 miles south, 1.5 miles west of Clarendon. The site is divided into two distinct habitats, one being a topographically level mesquite-grassland, whereas the other is comprised of a series of shallow to medium-sized canyons dominated by a juniper-grassland. Specific localities for most specimens collected in this county are given as UTM coordinates. An additional specimen (*Taxidea taxus*), representing a county record for Briscoe County, was collected as a road-kill 1.0 mile south of Silverton along Texas Highway 207. All voucher materials (skin and skulls; TTU numbers) and frozen tissues (TK numbers) were deposited in the Collection of Recent Mammals in the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University.

Cave Myotis
Myotis velifer

This species has a disjunct range throughout the western two-thirds of Texas, occurring in southern and north-central Texas, and in the eastern panhandle (Schmidly 2004). Typically, *M. velifer* inhabits caves but may be found in rock crevices and man-made structures (Schmidly 2004). On 18 October 2002, one female (TTU 90398; TK 112609) was collected over a man-made tank (no UTM).

Eastern Cottontail
Sylvilagus floridanus

The eastern cottontail occurs throughout the state of Texas in brushlands and marginal habitats (Schmidly 2004). On 18 October 2002, one male (TTU 90395; TK 112606) was collected in a mesquite-grassland habitat (no UTM). Also collected at this site was *Lepus californicus*.

Merriam's Pocket Mouse
Perognathus merriami

Perognathus merriami is known from the western two-thirds of Texas, but is absent from the extreme northern Panhandle and the extreme western Trans-Pecos (Schmidly 2004). On 19 October 2002, three females and five males (TTU 90410, 90411, 90425, 90426, 90427, 90431, 90434, 90435; TK 112621, 112622, 112636, 112637, 112638, 112642,

112645, 112646) were collected. Two were caught in a mesquite-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-325879-3862421) along with *Peromyscus maniculatus* and *Chaetodipus hispidus*. The remaining individuals were caught in a juniper-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-325295-3861143) along with *Dipodomys ordii*, *Peromyscus leucopus*, *Peromyscus attwateri*, *Neotoma micropus*, and *C. hispidus*.

Hispid Pocket Mouse
Chaetodipus hispidus

The hispid pocket mouse is found throughout the state of Texas, with the exception of the extreme southern portion of the state, in sandy or other friable soils (Schmidly 2004). On 18 October 2002, a single female (TTU 90397; TK 112608) was collected using a Macabee gopher trap (no UTM). On 19 October 2002, an additional three females and four males (TTU 90401, 90402, 90405, 90406, 90407, 90432, 90433; TK 112612, 112613, 112616, 112617, 112618, 112643, 112644) were collected. Three individuals were collected at UTM: 14-325879-3862421 in a mesquite-grassland habitat along with *P. maniculatus* and *P. merriami*. Two individuals were collected at UTM: 14-326241-386155 in a mesquite-grassland habitat along with *Reithrodontomys fulvescens*, *Reithrodontomys megalotis*, and *P leucopus*. Two individuals were collected at UTM: 14-325295-3861143 in a juniper-grassland habitat along with *D. ordii*, *P. leucopus*, *P. attwateri*, *N. micropus*, and *P. merriami*.

Ord's Kangaroo Rat
Dipodomys ordii

Ord's kangaroo rat inhabits arid and semiarid regions of the western and southern parts of Texas (Schmidly 2004). On 19 October 2002, two males and two females (TTU 90412, 90413, 90414, 90415; TK 112623, 112624, 112625, 112626) were captured in a juniper-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-325295-3861143). Other rodent species collected from this area included *P. merriami*, *C. hispidus*, *P. leucopus*, *P. attwateri*, and *N. micropus*.

Fulvous Harvest Mouse
Reithrodontomys fulvescens

The distribution of *R. fulvescens* in Texas includes the eastern two-thirds of the state, excluding the Edwards Plateau (Schmidly 2004). This species usually is found in grassy or weedy areas. On 19 October 2002, two females (TTU 90399, 90403; TK 112610, 112614) were collected in an area dominated by a mesquite-grassland (UTM: 14-326241-3861555). Other species collected at this locality included *C. hispidus*, *R. megalotis*, and *P. leucopus*.

Western Harvest Mouse
Reithrodontomys megalotis

This species typically is found in grassy or weedy areas ranging from the panhandle south and west to the Trans-Pecos region (Schmidly 2004). On 19 October 2002, one female (TTU 90404; TK 112615) was collected in a mesquite-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-326241-3861555). Other rodents collected at this same locality included *C. hispidus*, *P. leucopus*, and *R. fulvescens*.

Plains Harvest Mouse
Reithrodontomys montanus

In Texas, the plains harvest mouse is found in central and western parts of the state, as far west as El Paso County and east to Madison County (Schmidly 2004). This species usually is found in climax grasslands. On 27 September 2003, one female (TTU 100439; TK 121463) was collected (no UTM) in mesquite-grassland habitat. Other species collected at this same time included *N. micropus*, *Baiomys taylori* and *Sigmodon hispidus*.

Texas Mouse
Peromyscus attwateri

Peromyscus attwateri occupies a distribution throughout rocky areas in central and northern Texas, but generally does not extend into the plains of the panhandle (Schmidly 1974). On 19 October 2002, two males and one female (TTU 90418, 90419, 90424; TK 112629, 112630, 112635) were collected (UTM: 14-325295-3861143). These specimens were collected in a juniper-grassland habitat along with *D. ordii*, *P. leucopus*, *P. merriami*, *N. micropus*, and *C. hispidus*.

White-footed Mouse
Peromyscus leucopus

This species is distributed throughout North America east of the Rocky Mountains, including all of Texas. On 19 October 2002, six males and one female (TTU 90400, 90416, 90417, 90420, 90421, 90422, 90423; TK 112611, 112627, 112628, 112631, 112632, 112633, 112634) were collected. One specimen (TTU 90400) was collected in a mesquite-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-326241-3861555) with *C. hispidus*, *R. fulvescens*, and *R. megalotis*. The remaining six specimens were captured in a juniper-grassland habitat (UTM: 14-325295-3861143) with *D. ordii*, *P. merriami*, *P. attwateri*, *N. micropus*, and *C. hispidus*. These localities occur near the hypothesized border between the *P. l. texanus* subspecies to the south and the *P. l. tornillo* subspecies to the north and west (Lackey et al. 1985).

Hispid Cotton Rat
Sigmodon hispidus

The hispid cotton rat is distributed throughout the state, occupying tall-grass habitats (Schmidly 2004). On 27 September 2003, one female and one male (TTU 100503, 101505; TK 121460, 121466) were captured (UTM: 14-325874-3862421) in mesquite-grassland habitat. Other species collected from this area included *B. taylori*, *N. micropus*, and *R. montanus*.

Northern Grasshopper Mouse
Onychomys leucogastor

This species occurs throughout most of west and south Texas, excluding the Trans-Pecos region (Schmidly 2004). Typically, it is found in grasslands or open brushlands. A single specimen (TTU 100787; TK 119117) was collected in April from a mesquite-grassland habitat (no UTM).

North American Porcupine
Erethizon dorsatum

Erethizon dorsatum occurs in the western half of the state of Texas, extending as far east as Bosque County, and has recently expanded into southern Texas as far south as Jim Wells County (Schmidly 2004). On 20 October 2002, a pregnant female (TTU 99999; TK 114634) was collected as road-kill 3.5 miles south of Clarendon (no UTM).

American Badger
Taxidea taxus

American badgers are found throughout most of the state of Texas, excluding far eastern portions, and occupy a wide variety of habitats (Schmidly 2004). On 18 October 2002, one female (TK 99997; TK 114546) was collected as road-kill along Texas Highway 207 (no UTM).

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